

FARTHING WOOD FRIENDS

98

Based on the series shown on **BBC** TV.

FREE
Album
stickers



15

25



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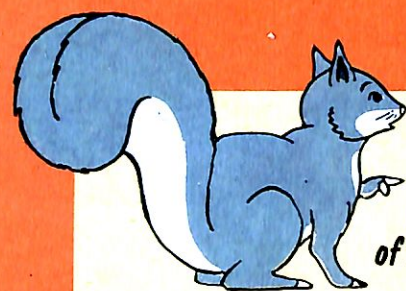
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NATURE FUN AND LEARN SERIES



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98>



Squirrel says,

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here's how to make sure
you don't miss any copies
of Farthing Wood Friends!*

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all your copies of
Farthing Wood Friends*

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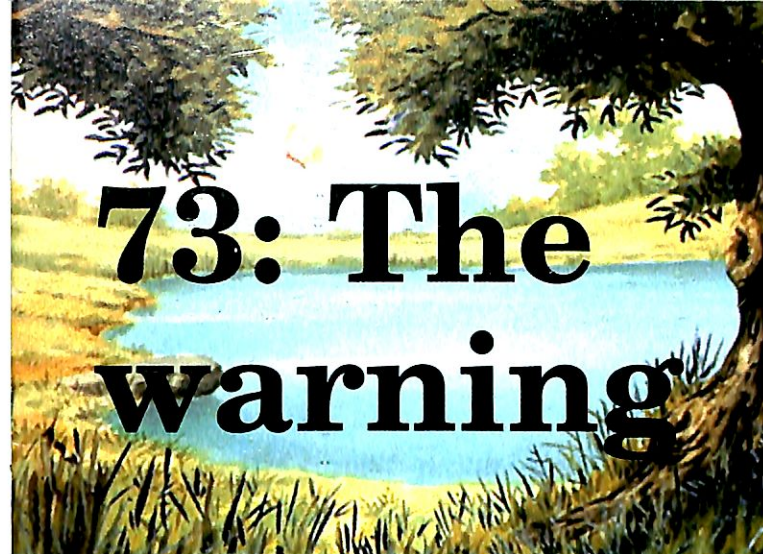
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Key: AA = All About ...; CII = Colour it in; DN = Discovering Nature; FF = Fascinating Facts; HTD = How to Draw; PIO = Puzzle it out; SW = Secret World; TOFW = Tales of Farthing Wood.

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It was a fine, sunny morning in White Deer Park and the rats were getting up to their usual old tricks.



"Go on, Spike," said one of the rats, "Bully says you're the spy, so get out there and spy." Spike peered out of a reedbed, then stepped out, gingerly.



As he tiptoed along, an Edible frog jumped up beside him. "Ugh! Leave me alone you horrible frogs," he screamed, running back to the safety of the reedbed.



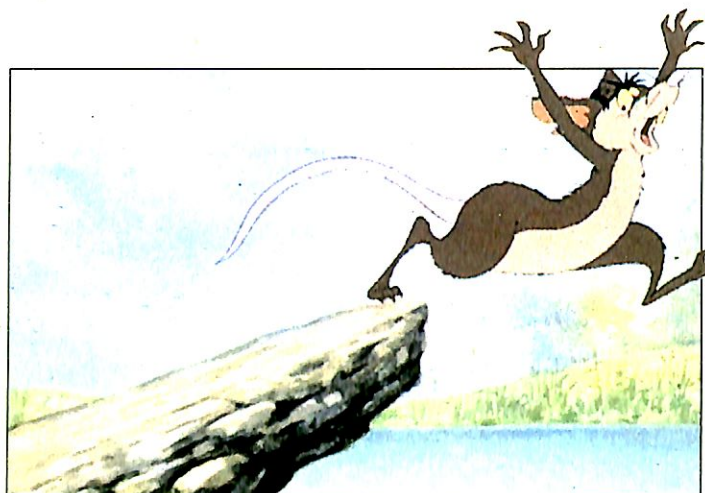
Just then, Toad hopped up, "Morning mateys, what game are you playing?" he asked. "It's a game for frogs, not toads," replied the Edible frog.



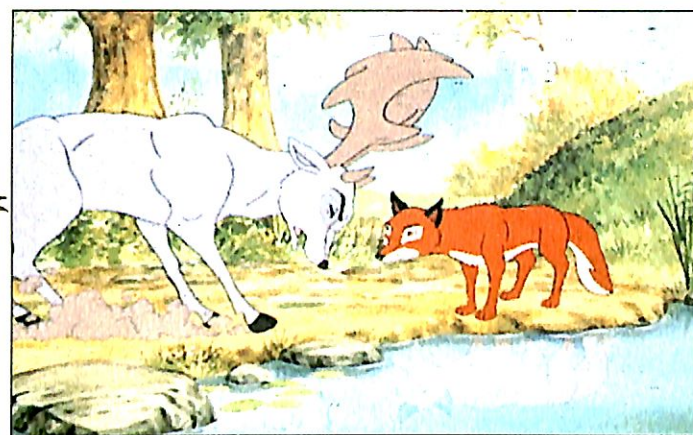
"You're not going to eat me, are you?" cried Spike, poking his nose out. "Oh, it's you matey," said Toad, recognizing him from the previous day. "Where are your other mateys then?" he asked.



"I've no mateys, there's only me," squeaked Spike. "Oh, do tell the truth," pleaded Toad, "I keep telling Fox there are hundreds of you, but he thinks I'm going mad. How many of you are there?"



But, before Spike could answer, Trey came running up to the edge of the pond. Everyone except Plucky jumped into the pond to escape, including Spike.



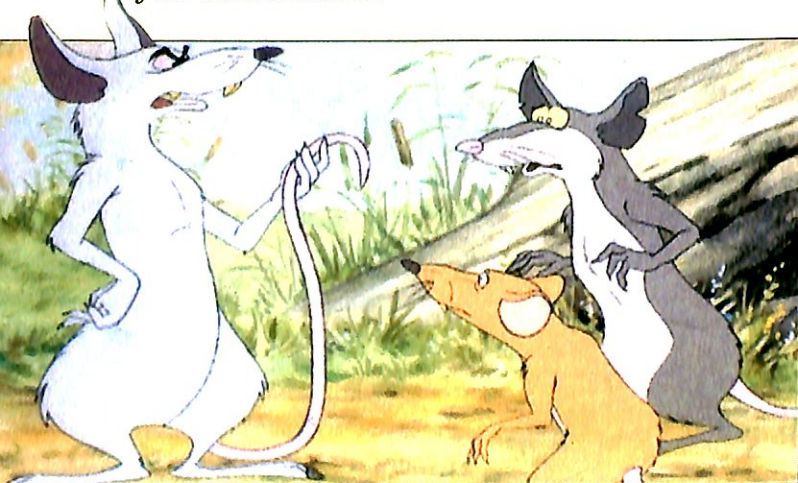
Trey walked up to Plucky and snorted in his face. "Who gave you permission to drink from this pond?" bellowed Trey. "Nobody gave me permission," replied Plucky, who then carried on drinking.



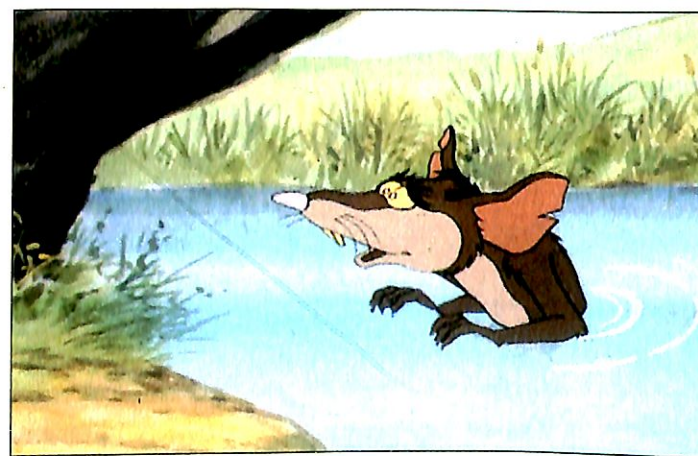
"This clear, fresh pond water is for deer to drink only. My herd will quench its thirst here," said Trey. "Drink from the stream if you must, but don't drink from my pond. Do you understand?"



"I'll drink wherever I like," Plucky replied, "this is my pond, Toad's pond, everybody's pond." Trey chased after Plucky, angrily. "You'll never catch me, you big, snorting monster," called Plucky, cheekily.



A couple of rats appeared to pull Spike out of the water. Bully turned up, too, "That barmy stag's thumping about again, I see," Bully commented.



"He has ordered, Oh leader, that only his herd can drink from the pond," spluttered Spike. "Well, lads, that plays right into our hands," said Bully. "If the other creatures can't drink here, they'll have to leave White Deer Park."



"There's always the stream," ventured one of the rats. "The stream's poisoned," replied Brat. "Now we'll have this whole place to ourselves," chuckled Bully.



Outside White Deer Park, a storm was brewing. "Measly, look at you, what kind of a father are you?" shrieked Weasel. "Look at us. This is the third worst storm ever and we're out in the middle of it."



"It's all your fault," Cleo agreed.



"Why don't we go back to White Deer Park?" suggested Measly. But Weasel didn't like that idea at all, "You go back there on your own, you useless twerp."



They set off to find some shelter for the night. As they walked along, Cleo stepped into a pool of mud and sank out of sight. Measly saw what had happened and managed to pull her out just in time.



The weasels were wet and miserable, they thought they'd never find shelter. They were just about to give up when they peeked over a high wall and saw a barn, "This will do," laughed Weasel, as they raced to the barn.

Next week: Evicted.

All About.



“Kee-wee, kee-wee! Greetings from the islands of New Zealand. I’m a very important bird here, the national bird, in fact. I’m Brown kiwi and I have two other relatives, Great spotted and Little spotted kiwi. I imagine Kestrel and the other birds of Farthing Wood would get quite a surprise if they saw one of us kiwis running through the undergrowth on our sturdy legs. As you can see, we have no wings or tail feathers, so we cannot fly. There used to be other flightless birds in New Zealand, such as the huge Moas, but when humans settled here they hunted the birds, which were easy to catch, and cut down the forests where they lived. We kiwis have survived because we are secretive – we hide during the day and only come out at night to feed.”

We kiwis don’t have particularly good eyesight. Instead, we rely on smell to find our food. Our nostrils are at the end of our long beak and we use them to pick up the scent of creatures on or under the ground. We can plunge our beak right into the ground to pull out grubs, worms, beetles and other soil creatures. We also eat fruit.

We Brown kiwis are found on both North and South Island of New Zealand but the Little spotted kiwi, which is only 35cm long, is much rarer. There are several hundred on the island of Kapiti in Cook Strait, which separates North and South Island, and there may still be some on South Island. Many were killed when cats, rats and pigs were brought to New Zealand by European settlers.



Weasel’s Easel
Kiwis are named after the cry of the male – the female makes a different, hoarse sound.



I’m the largest of the kiwis – I’m 50cm long, just a bit bigger than a crow, and my mate is a little longer. I have coarse feathers that look like a shaggy coat – they protect me as I scurry through rough, thorny thickets. I have long claws and strong, thick legs and bristles round the base of my long beak, which curves downwards.

MEET MY FAMILY

I’m afraid to say, one of my relatives, the flightless Dwarf Cassowary, which lives on the islands of New Guinea and New Britain in Papua New Guinea, is said to be the world’s most dangerous bird. It lashes out at intruders with a razor sharp, extra-large claw and has even been known to kill humans.

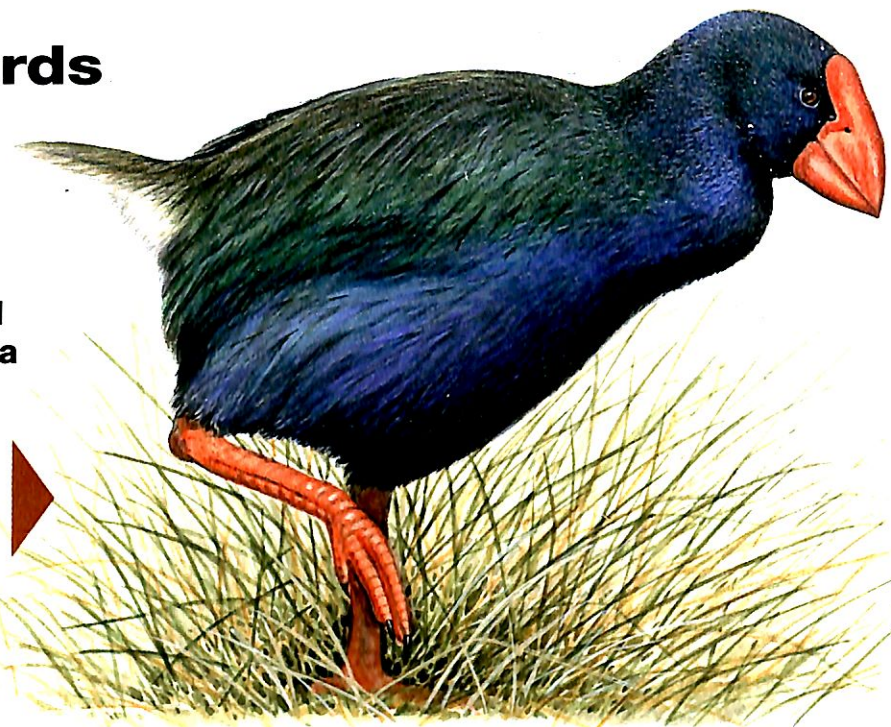


All About...

Other flightless birds

“We kiwis aren’t the only birds in New Zealand that don’t fly. Along the coast there are several kinds of penguin, on some of the southern islands there is a flightless parrot called a Kakapo. In the South Island grasslands, the world’s largest rail, a bird like a moorhen, is found.”

This colourful rail, called a Takahe, has beautiful violet-blue and green feathers and a huge red beak. Like other flightless birds, it has strong thick legs. It had not been spotted during the first half of this century and people thought it had become extinct, but some birds were found in 1948 in a mountainous area of South Island. The Takahe is now protected by the New Zealand government.



IT'S Amazing!

HARD WORK

Kiwis have to work hard to produce a chick. Their eggs are up to four times heavier than the eggs of other birds of the same size. Also, they have to incubate them for a long

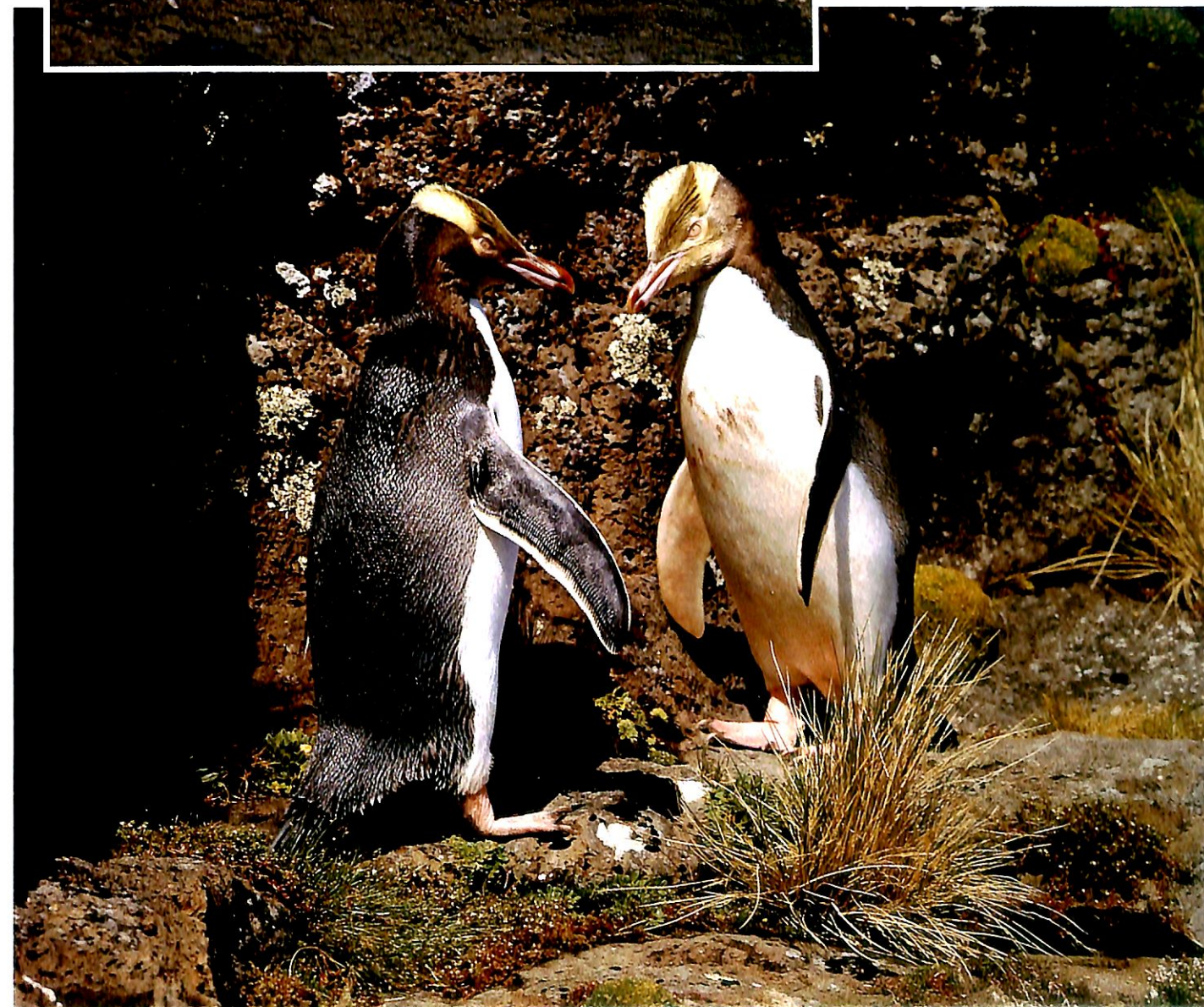
time – up to 12 weeks for the Brown kiwi and 10 weeks for the Little spotted. Once the chicks hatch, the parent’s job is nearly over, for in just seven days the youngsters can feed themselves.

The Kakapo’s green and yellow mottled feathers, barred with brown and black, provide it with excellent camouflage among the ferns and other plants of the forest undergrowth. It is the world’s heaviest parrot and normally lives secretively, on its own, hiding in burrows or among the undergrowth during the day. In late summer, however, the males gather in clearings and call out for mates with loud, booming sounds while they make dancing displays.



The Little penguin, which is also called the Blue penguin, is the noisiest and smallest (it is about 40cm long) of all penguins. Those that live along the coast of South Island are the darkest blue. Little penguins nest in burrows or caves and lay two eggs.

This Yellow-eyed penguin is one of the rarest in the world. It is only found off the coast of South Island and on three islands further south. It dives for fish and squid during the day and roosts on sandy beaches at night. Most penguins breed together in groups called colonies, but Yellow-eyed nest apart from each other.





Hurkel

He wants to be everybody's friend, and he has lots already, because of his kind, caring nature, but he doesn't know any other badgers. So Hurkel is very pleased when he arrives in White Deer Park and meets Shadow – perhaps she'll even be his mate!



Drawing Hurkel

**BEFORE YOU START...
PRACTISE DRAWING
THESE SHAPES**

**CIRCLES AND
SHORT CURVES**

1

DRAW A LOP-SIDED ARCH TO OUTLINE THE BODY

DRAW A CIRCLE FOR THE HEAD

OUTLINE THE BOTTOM OF THE BELLY

DRAW TWO LINES FOR LEGS

DRAW TWO LINES TO JOIN THE HEAD TO THE BODY

DRAW A LINE FOR THE GROUND

2

DRAW A SHORT CURVE FOR A BACK HAUNCH

SHAPE THE NEAR BACK LEG AND OUTLINE ANOTHER BACK LEG

DRAW TWO BENT LINES FOR THE NEAR FRONT LEG

OUTLINE HURKEL'S SNOUT

3

DRAW A STRIPE ON THE TOP OF HURKEL'S HEAD

GIVE HURKEL A NOSE

OUTLINE THE MUZZLE

GIVE HURKEL A TAIL

OUTLINE FOUR PAWS

4

DRAW A LONG STRIPE DOWN THE BACK

OUTLINE HURKEL'S CHEST AND TUMMY FUR

FINISH OFF THE PAWS WITH CLAWS

OUTLINE HURKEL'S EAR AND EYE

GIVE HURKEL A MOUTH

5

FINISH OFF HURKEL'S EYE AND ADD TWO EYEBROWS

ADD A LINE ACROSS THE BRIDGE OF HIS NOSE

DRAW AN OVAL INSIDE THE EAR

DRAW A FEW SPOTS FOR WHISKERS AND FINISH OFF THE MOUTH

ROUGHEN UP HURKEL'S FUR

! DRAW YOUR LINES LIGHTLY SO YOU CAN RUB OUT OVERLAPPING ONES

Secret World of..



UREWARA NATIONAL PARK



“The river valley of Urewara National Park, covering more than 500,000 acres, is the largest area of untouched wilderness left on New Zealand’s North Island. Its two lakes, Lake Waikareiti and the larger Lake Waikaremoana, are surrounded by towering beech and Tawa-podocarp trees. This valley is also the original home of the Tuhoe tribe (the name means Children of the Mist) who lived here in the dense forest for many centuries.”

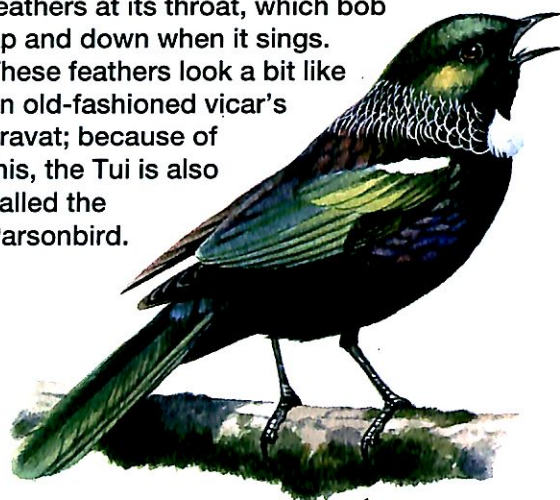
Prime pig’s Challenge: pigs were introduced to New Zealand by settlers and now roam wild over the islands. How many can you spot?



Secret World of..



The **Tui** is a large, dark honeyeater. It has a double tuft of curled white feathers at its throat, which bob up and down when it sings. These feathers look a bit like an old-fashioned vicar's cravat; because of this, the Tui is also called the Parsonbird.



You should be able to spot four black, hairy pigs snuffling through the dense undergrowth.

The **Morepork owl** makes a double hoot, rather like the call of a European cuckoo. By day, it roosts in thick foliage, or in a tree hollow or cave. By night, it comes out to hunt large insects, lizards and even small mammals, swooping down on them from a perch with its talons outstretched, and often grabbing them in mid-air.



The soft, bell-like song of the **Bellbird** has slight variations, depending on where it lives. Much of its time is spent hanging upside down, searching flowers for nectar, although it also eats insects and fruit. The deep, cup-shaped nest, where the three or four eggs are laid, is built on a loose twig platform, well hidden in the bush.



In late September, the **Shining cuckoos** arrive on North Island, and from then on their musical whistles are heard day and night as they chase each other through the trees. They stay until February, feeding on the hairy caterpillars of the Magpie moth and other insects, then leave to spend the winter in the Pacific.



Captain Cook sailed to New Zealand from Plymouth in 1768, bringing pigs with him. Some escaped and ran wild; their descendants are known as 'Captain Cookers'. These **Wild pigs** look like the Wild boar still found in parts of Europe, and are hunted for food and sport.



The Maoris (natives of New Zealand) call the **Blue duck** 'Whio' as this is the sound of the male's hoarse cry; the female's call is more like a rattle. These ducks live in mountain streams, where they find most of their food by diving down and searching the stream bed, even in very fast-running currents.



The **Kaka**, named after its call, is a strong-flying parrot that grows up to 45cm long. It has a curved beak, which it uses for digging into rotten wood as it searches for grubs and insects to eat. At breeding time, it nests in a hollow tree, where the female lays four or five white eggs.

FINE FEATHERS



Life was never the same for me after I lost my gorgeous tail feathers. I know my wife prefers to dress in plainer colours, but we males pride ourselves on our fancy feathers - in fact, we use them to lure potential mates into our wings - a ploy that rarely fails to do the trick.

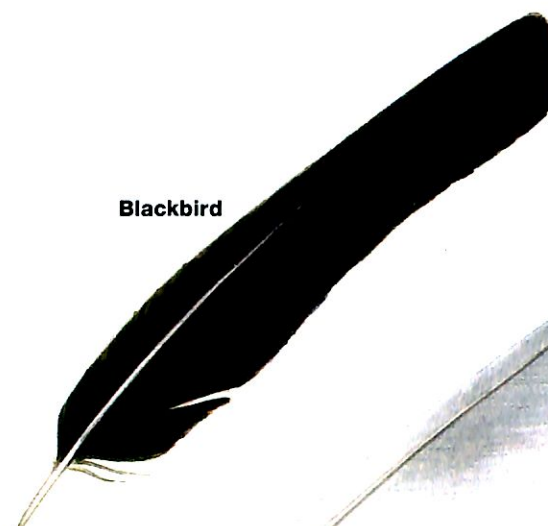
Featherwatch

When you're out on a walk, you often come across feathers. Can you always tell what bird they've come from? Here are a few of the more common ones.

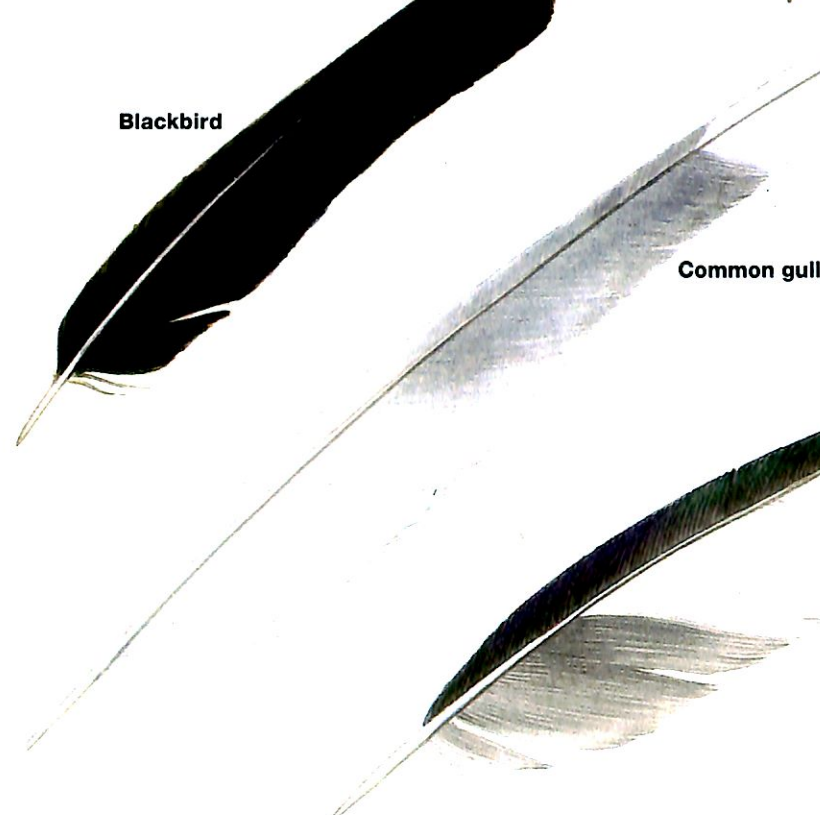
Which sea bird was a famous astronomer?
Gullileo.



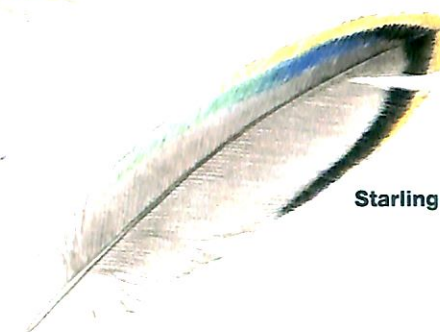
Tawny owl



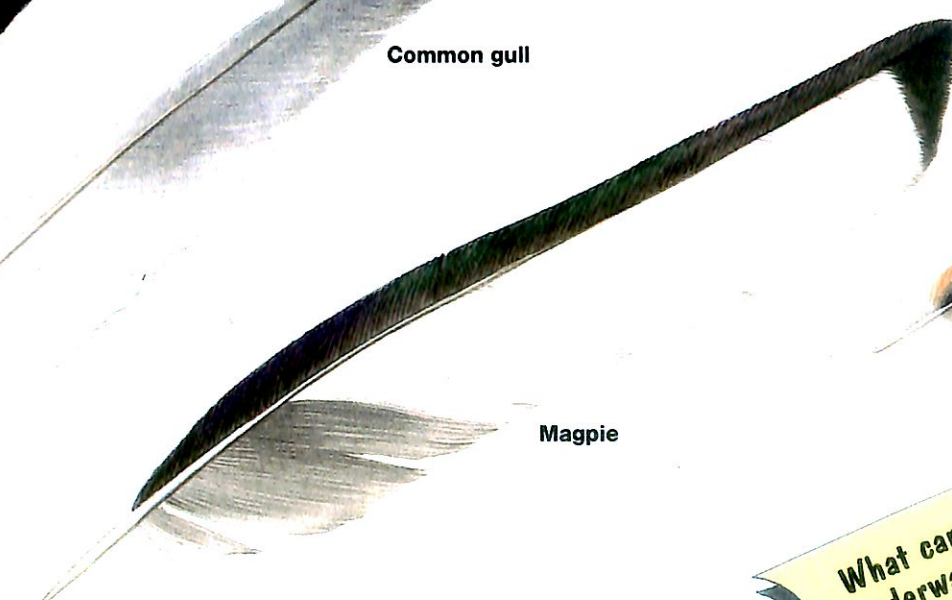
Blackbird



Common gull



Starling



Magpie



Sparrow

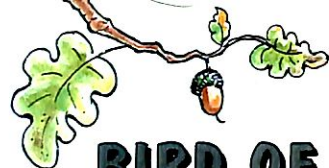


Robin



Mallard

What can fly underwater?
A parrot in a submarine.



BIRD OF PARADISE

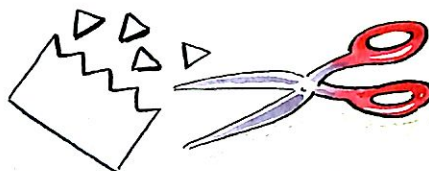
This gorgeous bird lives in the rainforests of New Guinea, where he uses his brilliant plumage to show off in courtship displays.

Squirrel says
Use plenty of newspaper to protect your work surfaces from paint and glue.



1 In a small bowl, mix two spoonfuls of green powder paint with a spoonful of washing-up liquid. In another bowl, mix one spoonful of blue powder paint with two spoonfuls of PVA glue diluted with cold water.

2 Cut a jagged edge along a piece of card about 10 x 15cm, to make a painting comb.



You will need:
two bowls, green and blue powder paint, paint brush, washing-up liquid, PVA glue, card, scissors, textured objects (see step 4), wax crayons, white paper, coloured crepe or tissue paper, shiny black paper and a button.

3 Take a large piece of card for the base of your picture (about 40 x 50cm). Brush some green and blue paint on to the background then use the comb to swirl the paint into interesting patterns. Leave to dry.

4 Collect some textured objects, such as coins, paper doilies, bark, etc. Put white paper on top of them and rub over them with red and yellow wax crayons. Keep going until a whole sheet of paper is covered.

5 Cut the patterned paper into feather shapes.

6 Copy the bird of paradise outline shown on the grid on to your rainforest background with a white wax crayon.

7 Tear some yellow tissue paper into small pieces and glue down for the bird's head. Glue down the feather shapes. Crumple some black tissue paper and glue it down for the throat.

8 Cut some long strips of crepe and tissue paper. Fringe them at one end. Stick them down for the tail.

9 Cut a beak and two feet from black, shiny paper. Stick them down. Use a button for the eye.

PEACOCK

Real peacock feathers are said to be unlucky inside the home, so have some paper ones instead.

You will need:
paper plate, stiff card, PVA glue, coloured pencils, scissors, pencil.

1 Colour the rough side of your paper plate in bright peacock colours like blue, green and yellow. Cut the plate in half, then cut each piece in half again, then cut each of the four pieces into three. Draw an 'eye' on each one. These are your feathers.

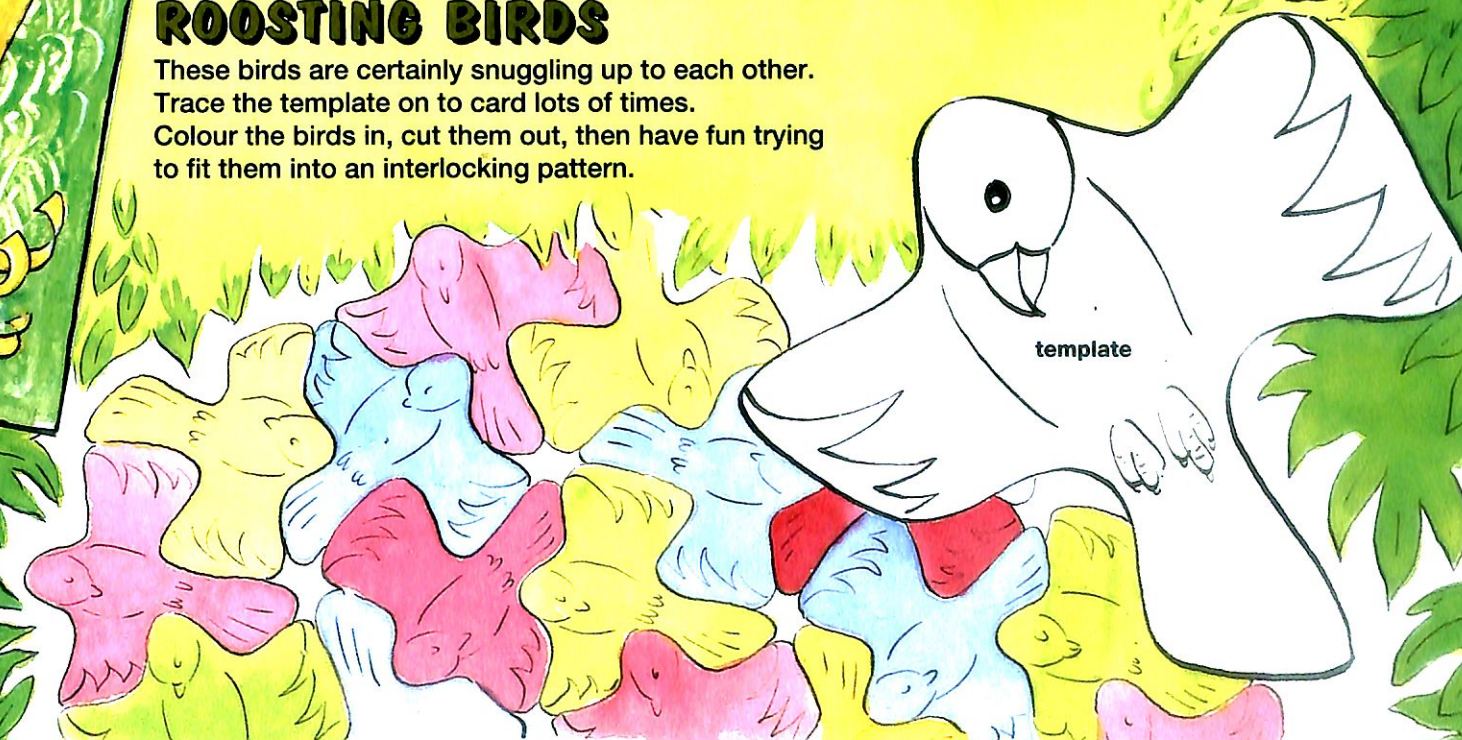
2 Copy the body template on to card. Colour it in and cut it out.

3 Glue the feather shapes on to the back of the peacock's body in a fan shape. Two of them should point down to form the tail.



ROOSTING BIRDS

These birds are certainly snuggling up to each other. Trace the template on to card lots of times. Colour the birds in, cut them out, then have fun trying to fit them into an interlocking pattern.



HOME NEWS...

FOLLOW THE LEADER

by Weasel



News is reaching me of a caterpillar crisis at the conifer tree in White Deer Park. Apparently, a group of Pine procession caterpillars have been marching round in circles here for several hours, with no sign of letting up. One of the exhausted band commented, "This morning we were going up and down the tree as usual, following the silken thread of

the caterpillar in front, and hours later we're still here and my feet are aching." The problem seems to be that no-one will own up to being the ringleader, and unless one of them can break away from the circle, they could be marching for days.

We'll keep you up-to-date with their progress as we receive it here in the newsroom.

Notes & Queries

Dear Vixen,

Being a shoreline-dwelling species, I'm having great difficulty catching a meal, because just as I'm about to grab my prey the tide goes out again and I get washed out to sea. It's getting very frustrating. Can you help?

Mr Crab

You need to take a tip from the Plough snail of South Africa, which feeds on dead fish washed up by the sea. When the tide comes in, the snail uses its foot like a surf-board. The wave sweeps it along the beach to a possible meal. When the tide goes out, it surfs back again and hides in the sand until the next tide. Ingenious, don't you think?



ADDER'S ADS

TO LET - Cosy des. res. in the middle of the countryside ready for immediate occupation. Comprises living room, nest room and storeroom. Stunning

treetop views. Suit single, professional bird or couple of empty-nesters. Cost - 12 rats a month. Please apply to Owl, P. O. Box 21, The Belfry.

TOAD'S

O 1. Taipan, Australia and New Guinea
P = Black mamba, Southern and Central Africa
3. Tiger snake, Australia
4. Common krait, South Asia
5. Death adder, Australia
6. Yellow, or Cape Cobra, Southern Africa
7. King Cobra, India and South-east Asia
8. Bushmaster, Central and South America
= Green mamba, Africa
N 10. Coral snake, North, Central and South America

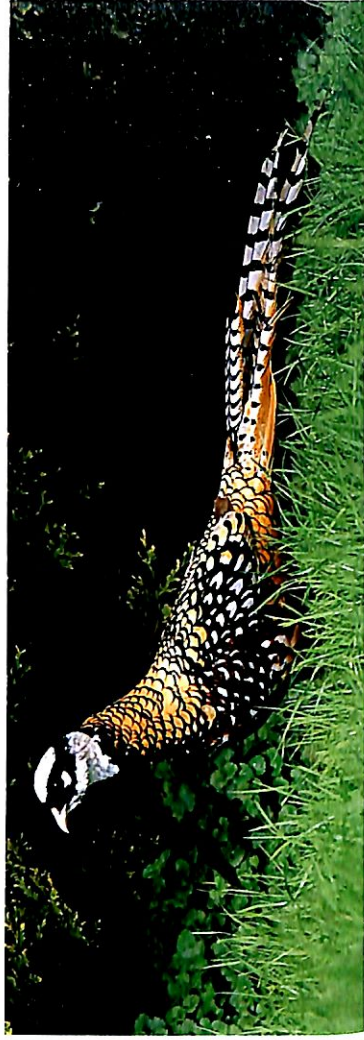


But don't worry, only a few dozen of the 3,000 or so snakes harm humans.

◀ The world's deadliest snake, the Taipan.

A TOPPING TAIL

Fashion by Pheasant



Not surprisingly, it's a relative of the ladies fall for it every time. If a male wants to attract a female, he just fluffs up his neck feathers and spreads his tail wide to show off its gorgeous black, white and gold colours. Incidentally, the Reeve's pheasant isn't just a pretty face - his tail also acts as a superb emergency brake.

HOT RATS!

Education by Owl

In an increasingly dangerous and violent world it is so important to teach one's offspring a method of self-defence. That way you know they are as safe from predators as they can be.

For example, hedgehogs and armadillos learn to roll up in a ball at the slightest hint of danger (though, alas, this didn't do Mr and Mrs Hedgehog a great deal of good on the motorway). But I must say, I was most surprised to hear of an animal that can ward off would-be attackers with their



hairstyle. The crested rat from north-eastern Africa has the unusual ability to part the hair along its body to reveal bold lateral stripes and scent glands. Quite how this action wards off dangerous predators I don't know, but apparently it has a high success rate!

Puzzle it out ???

TRAIN SPOTTING



"I flew far away from White Deer Park," Kestrel was telling her captivated audience of animals. "Far below me was a long snake-like machine running on tracks."

"That's a train!" Mr Hare said, excitedly.

"It was going quite fast and I decided to follow it. It went on running, with me following, until it reached a building. Then it stopped and a whole lot of humans got out. It waited for a bit, then started up again, but I was too tired to follow."

"The trouble with humans," said Owl, scornfully, "is that they don't have any strength. They need

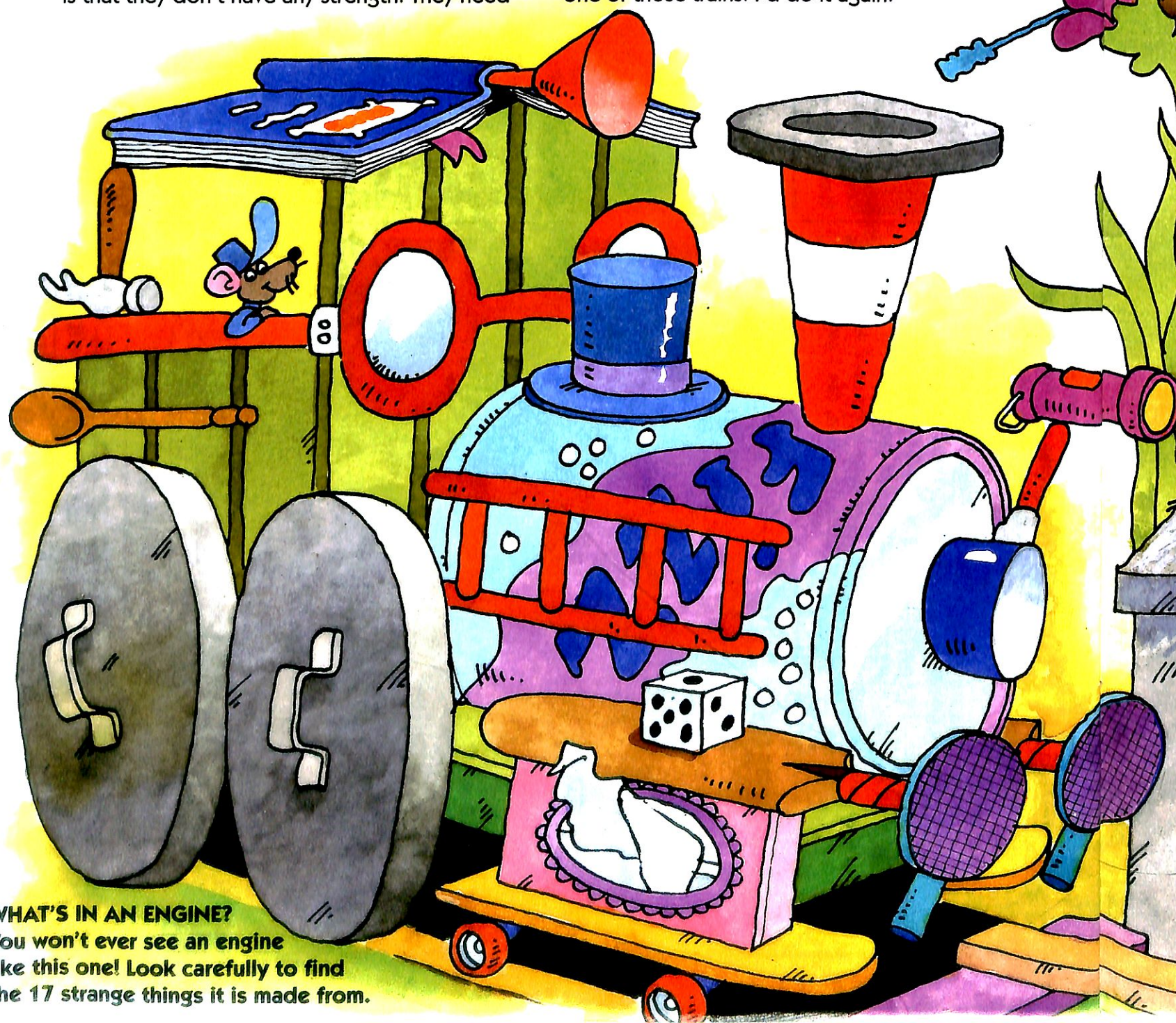
something to carry them wherever they go."

"And they're dangerous, too," said Toad. "Look what happened to the Hedgehogs when we were coming here. Run over they were, by one of those machines on the road."

"Cars," said Mr Hare, helpfully.

"I don't think much of humans and their machines," said Fox, and all the animals nodded in agreement.

"All the same," said Kestrel, "it was fun following one of those trains. I'd do it again."



WHAT'S IN AN ENGINE?
You won't ever see an engine like this one! Look carefully to find the 17 strange things it is made from.



YUB HTE TSBE
ODG ODOFI!

ETH TESBRTIGH
LUBBS ERA
ROUS!

ALENC UYOR
HSEOS THIW
ROU SHOPLI!

MIXED-UP ADVERTS
The wrong words have been put on these adverts. Can you unscramble the sentences and then match them to their adverts?

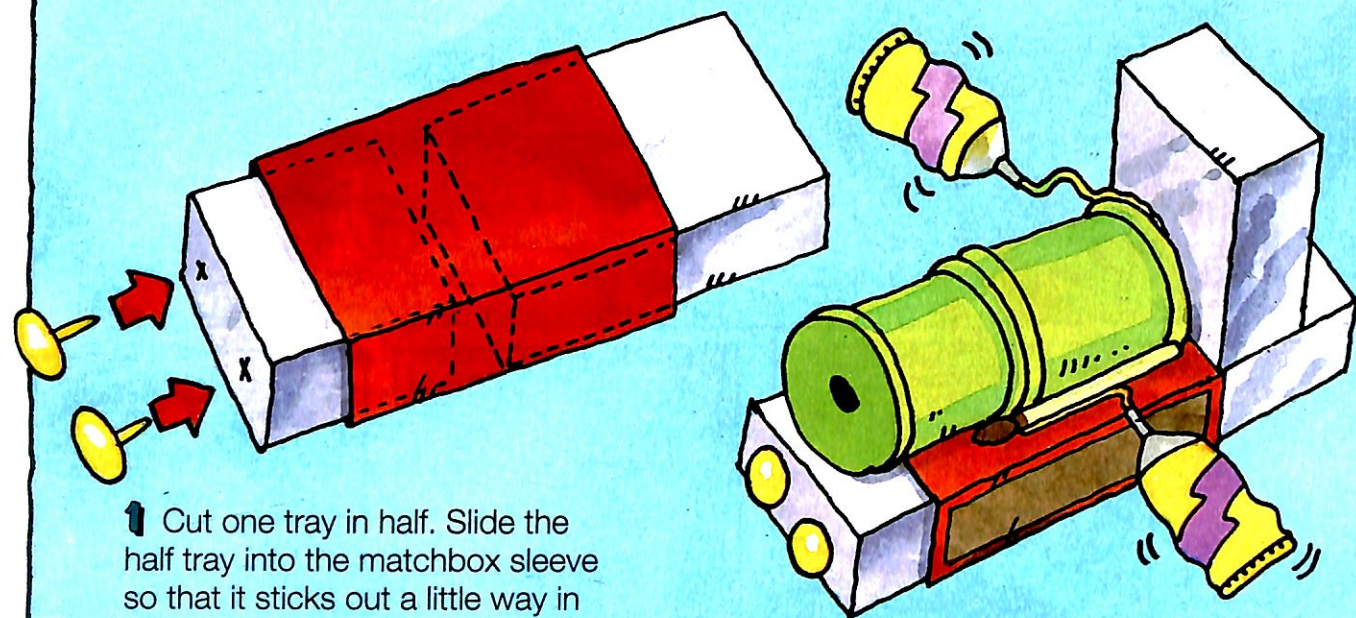
RAILWAY MAP
Can you find a route from Station A to Station B?

A

B

MATCHBOX TRAIN

Most homes have enough bits and pieces to put together a train like this.

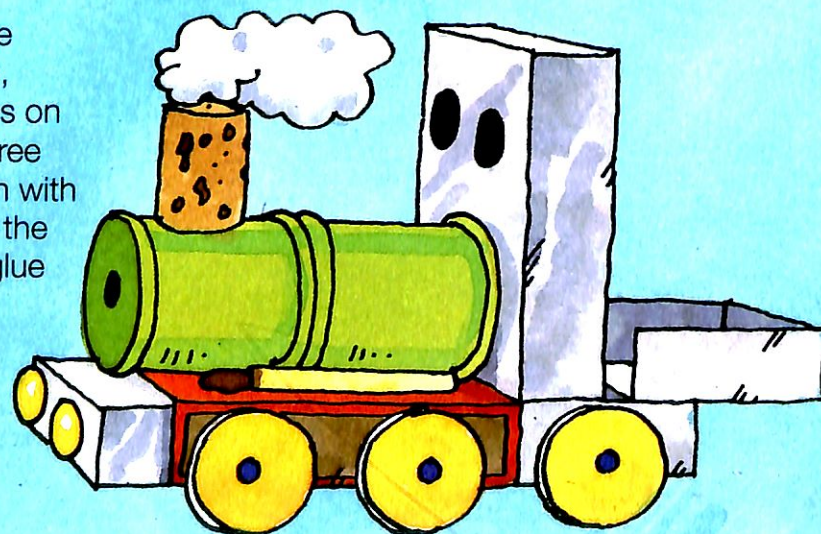


1 Cut one tray in half. Slide the half tray into the matchbox sleeve so that it sticks out a little way in front. Then slide one whole tray into the box so it sticks out about 30mm at the back. Put two drawing pins in front as buffers.

You'll need three matchbox trays, one matchbox cover, two used matches, glue, two cotton reels, one cork, eight drawing pins, some card from a cereal packet and cotton wool.

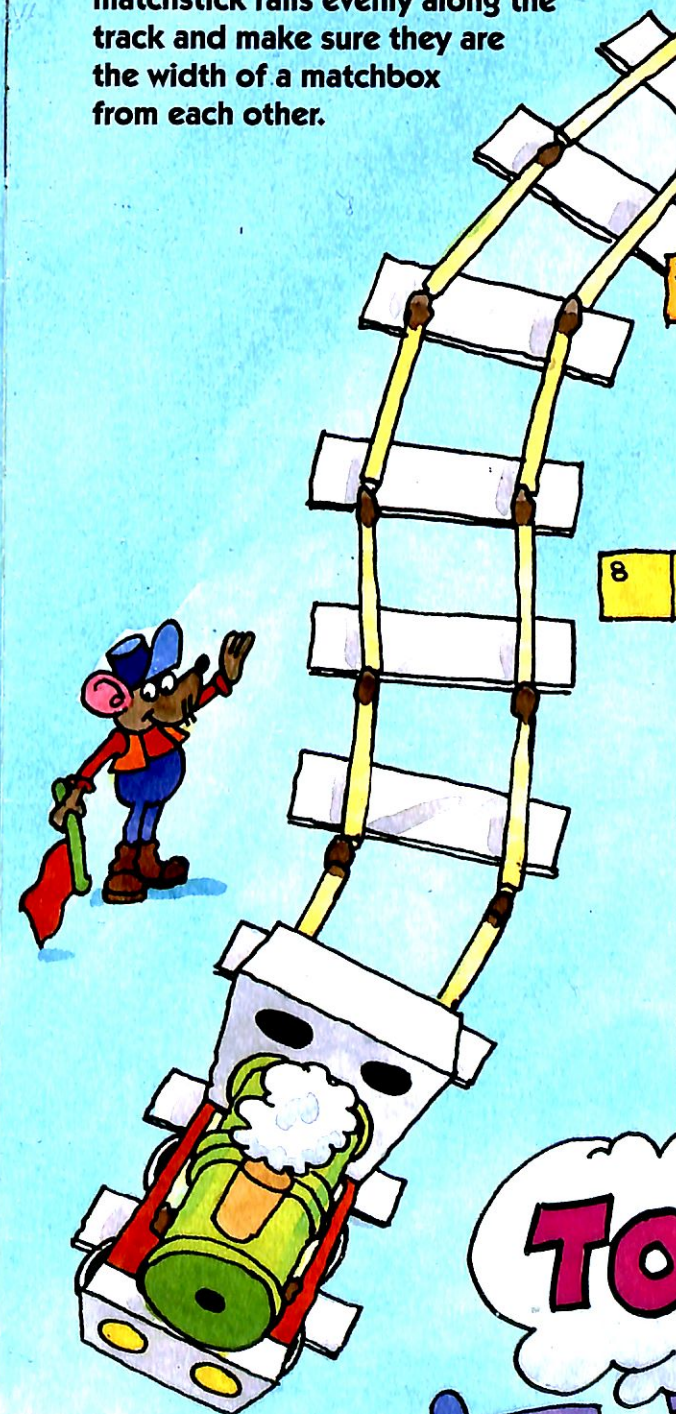
2 Glue one tray upright on to the back for the cab. To make the boiler, glue two cotton reels together and glue the back one to the cab. Glue a used match either side of the boiler to stop it slipping.

3 Glue the other half tray to the back for the tender. For wheels, trace round a 10p coin six times on to card, then cut out. Attach three wheels to either side of the train with drawing pins. Glue the cork on the boiler as a funnel. For smoke, glue cotton wool to the funnel.



TRACKS

Make tracks from used matches, glued to sleepers made from strips of card. Be careful to space the matchstick rails evenly along the track and make sure they are the width of a matchbox from each other.

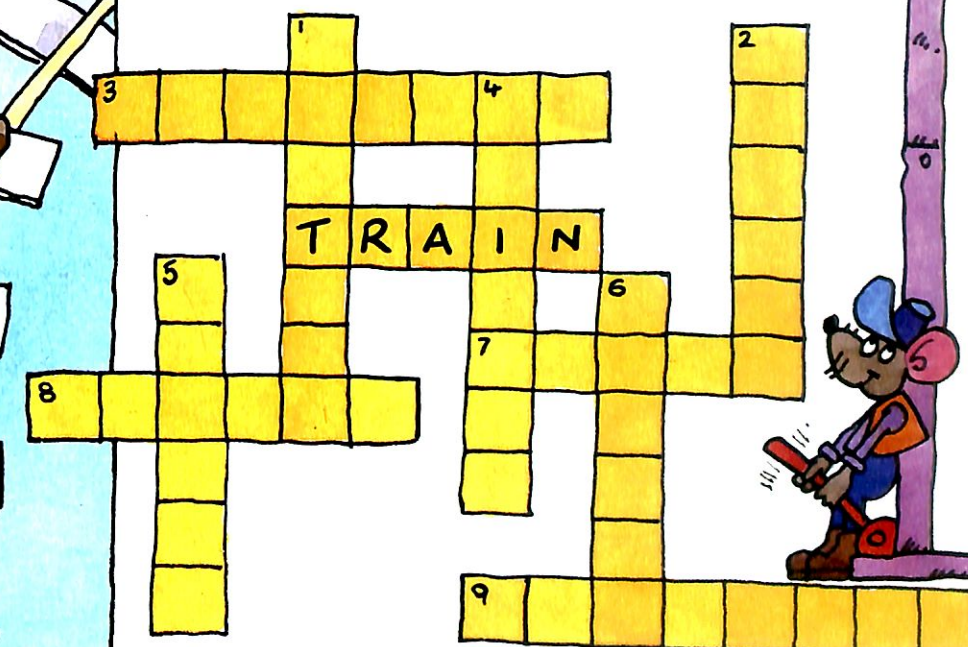


TRAIN CROSSWORD
Read the clues and fill in the crossword.

CLUES

Across:

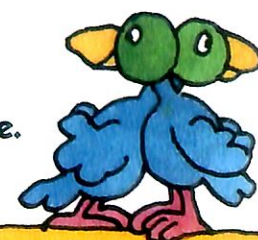
- 3 Where you stand to wait for the train.
- 7 What goes round on the tracks.
- 8 This pulls the train.
- 9 Where passengers ride.



Down:

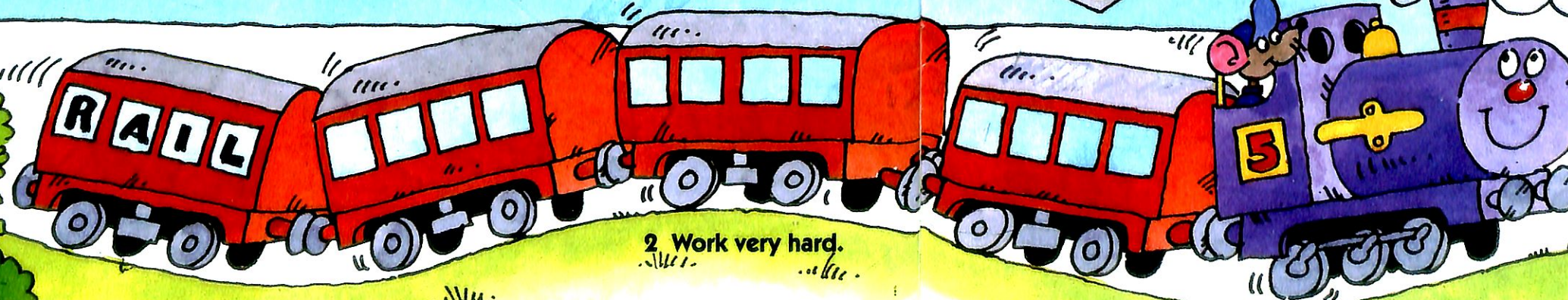
- 1 Where you go to catch a train.
- 2 Fuel for trains.
- 4 The kind of track trains run on.
- 5 This tells drivers to stop or go.
- 6 Where coal is kept in a steam engine.

TOOT!



ANSWERS
WHAT'S IN AN ENGINE
Hammer, Spoon, Dustbin lids, Funnel, Book, Spectacles, Top hat, Traffic cone, Ladder, Saucepan, Torch, Fizzy drink, can, Dice, Cricket bats, Ping-pong bats, Box of tissues, Skateboards.
MIXED-UP ADVERTS A Clean your shoes with our polish! B Buy the best dog food! C The brightest bulbs are ours!
FIND THE WORDS 1 Tail, 2 Toll, 3 Tool.
TRAIN CROSSWORD ACROSS:
3 Platform, 7 Wheel, 8 Engine, 9 Carriage; Down: 1 Station, 2 Diesel, 4 Railway, 5 Signal, 6 Tender.

FIND THE WORDS
Find the three missing words that take you from RAIL to TOOT!



Clues - 1 Wagged by a dog.

2 Work very hard.

3 An instrument for fixing things.

Colour it in 

MMM – LUNCH!

